COMMUNITY VISION

Volume XXIII, Number 4

NEWSLETTER of the PIKES PEAK GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER

June 2001

May at the Pride Center

Stonewall Celebration Weekend!
June 15 - 17th

Friday, June 15th
Stonewall Cinematique
See the film "Stonewall" based on the novel by Marin Duberman & directed by Nigel Finch, and the documentary, "After Stonewall" featuring Dorothy Allison, Rita Mae Brown, Larry Kramer & Amistead Maupin - 7pm at the Pride Center

Saturday, June 16th
Tonight we're gonna party like it's 1969! Dancing, Snacks, Cash Bar, Free Soda 8pm - Midnight at The Warehouse, 25 West Cimarron. This event is free, but any donation will be welcomed to help defray the costs of the evening. 60's "Revolution" attire urged!

Sunday, June 17th
Champaign Reception - meet with Rand'l Griffin, author & artistic editor of Gr(y)phon Bibliotech, to chat about the state of the art of (e)publishing. 4pm - 7pm at Gr(y)phon Bibliotech, 313 N. Tejon #12.

Save the Date!
Saturday, August 4th
MusicFest 2001
Sunday, August 5th
PrideFest 2001
"20 Years of Pride Under the Peak"
10am - 6pm
Acacia Park
Parade at 12:30pm

HIV Testing at the Pride Center!
July 16th - HIV Informational Forum 5:30 - 7pm
July 23rd - HIV Testing 5:30 - 7:30pm
125 N. Parkside 471-4429
Presented by S-CAP & El Paso County Health Department

June Calendar

Saturday, June 2nd: Coffee Den
A gathering place for gay/bi/trans men 8pm-Midnight at the Pride Center

Wednesday, June 6th: Religion Series
Rev. Elder Nori Rost, Metropolitan Community Church, 7pm at the Pride Center

Thursday, June 7th: Womyn's Pride Book Study
"Who Moved My Cheese?" Facilitated by Linda Rinehart -7:30pm at the Pride Center

Saturday, June 9th: Queers in Recovery (QIR)
Panel discussion and open forum for anyone in or contemplating recovery. "Gay, Sober, & Dating" 7pm at the Pride Center

Sunday, June 10th: Book Swap
Bring the books you have finished reading and trade them in for new(used) books! 4-6pm at the Pride Center

Wednesday, June 13th: Religion Series
Father Joe Holloran, The Catholic Church, 7pm at the Pride Center

Thursday, June 14th: Book Swap
Bring the books you have finished reading and trade them in for new(used) books! 7-9pm at the Pride Center

Friday, June 15th: Stonewall Cinematique
See the films "Stonewall" and "After Stonewall" - 7pm at the Pride Center

Saturday, June 16th: Stonewall Party
Tonight we're gonna party like it's 1969! 8pm - Midnight at The Warehouse, 25 West Cimarron. 60's "Revolution" attire urged!

Monday, June 18th: NetCoRe Monthly Mixer
5:30 - 7:30pm at Poor Richards on the Patio 324 1/2 N. Tejon, $5 requested donation

Wednesday, June 20th: Religion Series
Rabbi Irvin Ehrlich, Reform Judaism, 7pm at the Pride Center

Monday, June 25th: Lesbian Survivors Group
A group for women facing life-altering illnesses - 5:30pm at the Pride Center

Thursday, June 28th: Movie Night
Episodes 9&10 of "Queer as Folk" 8pm at the Pride Center, sodas and popcorn will be served.

The Pride Center has 2 offices for rent! Priced from $100 a month including utilities. This is a great location for smaller non-profits.
Call 719-471-4429

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MISSION STATEMENT:
To create a sense of community and to promote acceptance and understanding among lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgendered people and the community at large.

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Volunteers are always needed at the Pride Center. We have opportunities available no matter how much time you can commit.

Please call 471-4429 to sign up.

All memberships are for one year. If you know that your membership has expired, please renew using the coupon below.
Thank you for your support.

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PRIDE CENTER
125 North Parkside
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PPGLCC Board of Directors

From Gary Renville, President of the Board of the PPGLCC

Pride in Colorado Springs will be celebrated on August 5, 2001. Music Fest will be the evening before and our community will be filled with activity the week prior to that. This is the time for you to become involved! This is the time to show your pride and to show pride in your gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender brothers and sisters and the community at large. This is the time to show our greater community who we are and the time for us to stand together, so that we can be seen as individuals.

There are certain truths in life, and here are some of them... No one ever mowed the front lawn by thinking about it on the living room couch; no one ever built a bridge by daydreaming about how much to charge as a toll if it ever got completed; no one ever painted a picture or chiseled a statue or composed a symphony by sending a contribution to the National Endowment for the Arts; and--most certainly--no one ever won a cause, however worthwhile, without fighting for it.

There is an old cliché that we have all heard: "If it's worth having, it is worth working for." Certainly, the wisdom of that speaks for itself, and I cannot add to its truth. I would, however, amend it slightly.

Allow me to rework it to say, "If it's worth having, it is worth fighting for." Indeed, there are a few things of value and worth in this world for which we do not have to fight, either to attain or to maintain; that has meant everything from civil disobedience in which we protest wars to candle lit walks in support of funding increases for breast cancer awareness programs. Whatever the case may be, it has involved a group of people, convinced of the importance of the struggle and ready to enter that struggle, to engage the opposition and to fight until that goal-that worthwhile and important goal-was finally attainted, until the mission was accomplished.

Make no mistake about it, that is why we will celebrate Pride on August 5 and in the week prior. We are convinced of the worth of that for which we strive...we need your support AND your participation. Because we believe, we can do no less.

Your participation is needed in your Pride Center. Your participation is needed and important whether it is for one day a week or one hour a month-your participation is needed. Certainly, there is much to be done for the Pride celebration however, there is much to be done in Board committees, in Center activities, in fundraising efforts, in answering phones or in stuffing envelopes-and that just touches the surface.

We work toward, accomplish and refocus our goals based on your participation. We fight intolerance, and hate, and bigotry based on your participation. We struggle to right social injustice and violence based on your participation.

On behalf of the Board, I invite you to join us in our efforts, in our struggle and in reaching our goal of acceptance and understanding for all GLBT people and the community at large. We invite you to join us at Pride, but also challenge you to become involved in your center now, today.

For specifics on how to volunteer, contact our Executive Director Christy Pitts through phone at 471-4GAY, or E-mail me at: g_renville@hotmail.com. Contact us--you will be glad you did, and so will we.

Editors Note:
We apologize for neglecting to put in the Rev. Elder Nori Rost's complete title in the May edition of Community Vision.

EDUCATING SOCIETY OF OUR GLBT "PERSONHOOD":

Whose Job Is It Anyway?

by Linda C. Rinehart

According to Edgar Rodriguez, National Executive Director of the Gay Officers' Action League, Inc. (GOAL), the job of educating "the rest of society" about the realities and truths of our sexual orientations, while dispelling the many myths and fallacies that abound, is not only a collective local, regional and national effort but also an individual "job" for each of us who are part of the GLBT community. Sgt. Rodriguez, a nearly 20-year seasoned officer of the New York City Police Department, spoke to an interested contingent of our own Colorado Springs GLBT community at CU-Springs University Center on Thursday, May 3. The event was sponsored by the CU-Springs Activities Office.

Rodriguez, who in his early youth began to notice his own gay orientation, would live in painful denial until he fully embraced his true orientation in 1982, during his second year with NYCPD. Through thoughtful and thought-out introduction in his workplace of his gay orientation and lifestyle, Rodriguez gradually gained acceptance and respect from his heterosexual counterparts. During his presentation, he shared the anecdote that while he agreed to serve as the "poster police officer" for GOAL, the poster was produced and distributed in his precinct three weeks earlier than he had expected. The resultant shock and discomfort among his heterosexual fellow officers was initially awkward and "at times difficult to deal with," yet Rodriguez was able to rise above prejudices and long-time held myths of being gay and assert himself as being one of the finest in the NYCPD. In addition to the every-day responsibilities of his job, he is highly involved in training rookie police officers to be more accurately knowledgeable of and sensitive to the concerns and issues of New York City's GLBT community…not exactly a short order.

Through conveying his personal experiences, including trials and triumphs, Rodriguez suggests to, and inspires, us to take more direct, personal responsibility in educating the heterosexual community of our respective orientations. Such education, he suggested, may best be started within our immediate families. When Rodriguez himself first confided to his mother that he was gay, she pleaded with him not to tell his father for fear the revelation may kill his father. To quite the contrary, Rodriguez's father first listened empathically to his son's disclosure. His father then responded that regardless of Edgar's sexual orientation, Edgar remained his son of whom he was "very proud" and that he loved Edgar unconditionally. His father's only request was that Edgar be careful and cautious with his life. Edgar's revelation to his father was re-enacted as part of an HBO production, "Why Am I Gay?" in which Edgar starred and narrated. This HBO documentary, now about three years old, is an insightful look at what it means to be gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered.

Edgar's presentation and commentary that evening at CU-Springs included discussion and dialoging with the audience of studies supporting both sexual and gender orientation are determined before birth. Reported in a May 13, 2000 Associated Press release, "Researchers tracked the development of 27 male children who had been born without a penis, a rare defect known as cloacal exstrophy. The infants were otherwise male with normal testicles, male genes and hormones. 25 of the children were sex-reassigned---- doctors castrated them at birth, and their parents raised them as girls. But over the years, all of the children, (then) ages 5 to 16, exhibited the rough-and-tumble play of boys. Fourteen declared themselves to be boys, in one case as early as age 5. "These studies indicate that with time and age, children may well know what their gender is, regardless of any and all information and child-rearing to the contrary. (These children) seem to be quite capable of telling us who they are," said Dr. William G. Reiner, a child and adolescent psychiatrist and urologist at the Hopkins Children's Center."

Edgar also took some time to discuss in detail sexuality researcher Dr. Vivienne Cass's theoretical model of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Identity Formation. The following are stages of identity formation a gay, lesbian or bisexual person may go through:

Stage One: Identity Confusion---You may have attractions, fantasies or dreams about the same sex and wonder "Could I be gay/lesbian/bisexual?" It's important to be aware that people can have same-sex fantasies or experiences without adopting a homosexual orientation.

Stage Two: Identity Comparison---If your attractions to the same sex intensify over time, you can begin to accept the possibility of being gay, lesbian or bisexual. You may also compare yourself to others, coming to the realization that you do not "fit in."

Stage Three: Identity Tolerance---At this point, you believe you probably are gay, lesbian or bisexual, making you less confused. Psychological counseling with a supportive therapist can be helpful to you.

Stage Four: Identity Acceptance---You have accepted the idea that you are gay, lesbian or bisexual and find yourself socializing more and more with others who have the same sexual orientation as you do. Yet, you may still fear being an outsider in public.

Stage Five: Identity Pride---You are proud to be gay, lesbian or bisexual and strongly identify with gay culture. You also may want to connect to the gay community to fight prejudice and discrimination in society. Still, even as you embrace a homosexual identity, it is equally important to find ways to connect with supportive heterosexuals.

Stage Six: Identity Synthesis---You move beyond an "us/them" mentality, seeing similarities between gay and straight worlds. There is often a renewed emphasis on work, school and family roles as your sexual identity becomes only one aspect ofyour whole being.

It's interesting that families and friends may go through similar steps in their process of understanding and accepting their gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered loved ones. Studies have shown that major psychological gains occur at higher levels of identity formation, whether or not the gay, lesbian or bisexual person reveals his/her sexuality to people other than close family and friends. At several points during his presentation, Edgar mentioned the significant strides in understanding being made through PFLAG at all levels of that organization.

Rodriguez challenges all GLBT's to actively get involved in the education of our families, friends, co-workers, employers and civic leaders and the rest of our society. After all, it's been said, "knowledge is power." We in our GLBT community can work together to assure both the knowledge and power are positive throughout The Front Range Region.

Of particular concern are the alarmingly high rates of suicide, or the risk of it, among gay youth. Research statistics indicate 42% of gay youth reported a past suicide attempt; 30% of completed teen suicides are gay youth. For those who may want to come to the aid of and support our gay youth in Colorado Springs, Inside/Out is the organization to volunteer with.

Tasha Hill currently serves as Director of Inside/Out and can be reached by calling 328-1056. Edgar Rodriguez can be reached at phone number, (212) 529-4625 or via email at NY1ER@aol.com.

Linda Rinehart is contributing writer to The Community Vision. You can reach her via email at LCR59@aol.com.

LOVE MATTERS: some thoughts on changing our partners

by Linda Sutton

QUESTION:

My life partner has some of the most annoying habits (like playing the stereo too loud, for one) that just about drive me nuts. I've read your advice about taking responsibility for my own stuff and all of that, but wouldn't it be easier if she just changed? I mean…how hard is it to turn down the stereo? How do you and Maureen handle things about each other that you can't stand-or, do you like one another just the way you are? **Yada, Yada, Yada**

ANSWER:

Are there things about Maureen that I can't stand?! How much time do you have? I asked the same question of Maureen. She doubled over in laughter for l5 minutes and then said, "Let me count the ways." Feeling feisty and curious, I challenged her to do start counting. Not missing a beat, she complained --"your shoes all over the bedroom floor, the way you load the dishwasher and wrap leftovers in the fridge, the unmade bed, and your chronic worrying -- but don't get me started." My first impulse was to punch her lights out, but being a pacifist I resisted. I also realized that the criticism ratio in our family is about 10-1 so, I thought, maybe she deserved a turn. (After all, I remembered, it took her 15 years to tell me that she hated where I stored the potato masher.)

"And you," Maureen asked, "any of my habits driving you nuts lately?" (Knowing full well that my tolerance for her habits had recently reached critical mass.)

"You mean I get a chance to expose your annoying little habits in print," my long suffering self said.

"Go for it honey. I think my self-esteem can handle it."

"Well, short of sounding like Gertrude Stein, I can sum it up in three words-piles, piles, piles. Piles in the bedroom, piles on the kitchen counter, piles in the computer room. I've had just about enough of your piles!"

After bitching at each other for a while (and then laughing at ourselves), we gave more serious thought to Yada's question and her implied solution--"wouldn't it be easier if she just changed?" Our friend and mentor JoAnn Loulan thinks so. "Just do It-- turn down the damn stereo, pick up those shoes, get rid of that clutter -- and save yourselves a lot of therapy dollars", she would advise. Oh, JoAnn, if only it were that easy. Maureen and I have been tormenting each other with our inane little habits for 19 years (minus a six-week honeymoon period during which I thought her piles were funny and she thought my worrying was endearing). With rare exception, there's been very little change. I can be credited for remembering -- for the most part -- not to flush the toilet when she is washing her hair-- but only because I seriously scalded her head-- on more than one occasion. Maureen can be credited for making a major dent in her clutter on the eve of a transatlantic house exchange. Many of her piles are now housed in plastic bags down in the basement--out of sight. But what about all those other nasty little habits? Well, sorry to say, they're still driving both of us nuts after all these years.

It's not that Maureen and I haven't made any changes in the course of our relationship. On the contrary, we have made some profound changes in the way we relate to one another. When it comes to the big picture, we have definitely become more conscious, tolerant and more connected. It's a bit of an irony, therefore, that we've been so unsuccessful in ridding ourselves of these little irritations. It's an irony, however, shared by most couples we know. A heterosexual friend of mine recently told me that his wife was furious with him for "acting like an asshole." To that he responded, "so what's the problem-I've been an asshole since the day you met me!"

All human beings have some characteristics-call them traits, flaws or foibles-that are highly resistant to change. Many of these behaviors are life-long, habitual -- even addictive. They may have developed to help us feel safe or secure. Many habits are ritualistic and repetitive because they stem from the reptilian part of the brain. Many of us are unconscious, distracted, and oblivious too much of the time. Difficult to remember to turn that stereo down when we're not even in our bodies. When I mindlessly leave my shoes on the floor, forget to wrap the leftovers or make the bed, I am not necessarily trying to torture Maureen (or she me) but resistance to one another, relationship polarities, power and control issues, all conspire to make our annoyances a tad more tenacious.

But how do you handle things you don't like about your partner? Yada wants to know. I think Maureen and I have tried every approach known to womankind. We've tried the working-on-the-other-person approach. I cajole, plead, threaten, demand, manipulate, and reproach. Maureen lectures like a third-grade teacher ("See Honey, if you put the plate in the dishwasher in this direction, there will be room for many more.") or gives me the I-can't-believe-you-don't-know-how-to-properly-load -the-dishwasher look. Needless to say, both of us have failed miserably using these approaches.

We're tried the Zen approach-accepting the other person through the use of compassion, loving-kindness, and forgiveness. We've meditated, studied the Dalai Lama, done yoga. We've even tried prayer--mine is sacrilegious, Maureen's is sacrosanct. I say, "Please Goddess, don't let me kill her while I'm waiting for her to change." Maureen uses the Serenity Prayer," Goddess grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change those things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." We've spent thousands of hours in therapy discussing and interpreting our respective habits--where they come from, how they serve us, what they mirror in each other. I've learned more than I ever thought was known about the psychodynamics of piles!

While all of these approaches hold great promise, they do take an incredible amount of practice and self-discipline. Neither of us has much of either. We're working on it, however, and will get back to you.

What's critical about these issues--and all other relationship issues--is how we relate to them. What meaning do we assign to our partner's habits? Do Maureen's piles mean that she doesn't care about me or my feelings? Do my shoes in Maureen's path mean that I disrespect her? Do these behaviors necessarily have anything to do with love and commitment? I think not. But how are we to know?

We know through how we communicate about them-at least, that's how Maureen and I know. She'll say to me: I know I'm driving you crazy with my piles. You need to know that I'm driving myself crazy, too. I'll say to her: Part of why I'm having such a hard time with your piles is that my clutter is out of control. She'll say: In order to eliminate my clutter, I'd have to have a personality change. I'm afraid that's not going to happen. I'll say: The real reason I don't make the bed is that I don't care if the bed is made, not because I don't care about you. We convey our love, respect, care, and concern through a certain level and quality of communication. Of course, that's after we've vented and bitched sufficiently!

There's nothing wrong with telling each other how you feel (in fact, I promote that) or even asking one another to consider changing her ways (I support that, as well). But when change doesn't happen, we both need to know that we are still loved. You call your partner, your "life" partner, Yada. I take it that means you are in a committed relationship. I hope that despite your complaints (and any that your partner might possibly have of you) that at the end of each day, both of you still know that you are loved.

In the meantime, don't ever forget, **your love matters**!

Linda Sutton, M.A., is a psychotherapist and writer living in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She is the author of the book LOVE MATTERS: A Book of Lesbian Romance and Relationships by Harrington Park Press (available on Insightoutbooks.com). Do you have a relationship question for Linda? Send it to lovematters 1520@cs.com. For a catalog of Love Matters greeting cards, e-mail Linda or write to LOVE MATTERS P.O. Box 8136, Colorado Springs, CO 80933-8136. All rights reserved by Linda Sutton.

Bi, Bi, Baby:
thoughts from the middle of the spectrum

By Rebecca Nagel

We're here. We're queer. Or are we? After chatting with our fearless executive director over her struggles with naming Queers in Recovery, I realized how much we still find ourselves playing the name game. And I understand the idea behind it, which is the same as the intent behind the whole woman/womyn/wimmen shebang: words have power. They have meaning both in terms of how they evolve linguistically and in terms of our own personal history. Everyone has their own concepts about language that evolve from experience; it would be nice to refer to ourselves as a group without using a negative term (or, for that matter, one which has been used in a negative fashion.).

The only problem with this is what terms do we have? Do we start making them up? As of right now, I cannot think of a single term used to denote a non-straight non-traditionally gendered individual that has not been used as an insult in my own personal experience. Queer? Yep. Gay? Yep. Bisexual? Yep. Lesbian? Yep. Homosexual? Just ask the religious right. (Transgendered people get a slight reprieve due to the collective lack of recognition, but the few times I've seen them in the mass media I've heard more gasps of wordless horror than glowing praise.) Let's face it, unless we dramatically change society to the point where all the varied forms of sexuality and gender are acceptable and then simultaneously descried to announce to a global press conference that we shall now be collectively referred to as "fuzzy bunnies frolicking on rolling hillsides" there's no way we're going to avoid the negative stigma in our language. So let's at least pick one term to reclaim that doesn't require add-ons to make us all feel included.

When we say "the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transsexual, and Transgendered Community" it's long, awkward and perhaps most importantly, it points out our differences. To me, this symbolizes stringing together separate groups with a bunch of commas, and it certainly doesn't sound like we're marching behind a common cause, much less a common banner. One word is not going to change the world. But the attitude behind it can. I like to feel it's possible for someone of any sexual preference and gender to address the queer community and that person's issues be heard as issues for the entire queer community. Can we do that?

It's a wide weird spectrum out there and given the different sexualities, and different genders for that matter, that make up our community, it takes a pretty broad term to fit. And, perhaps, a broad mindset to ensure that a drag queen, bull dyke, transgendered lesbian, and heck, married bisexual can all come together, work together, and figure out away to be family. We may not have created this place yet (even San Francisco has its shortcomings) but I think we can get there. And to me, queer is the term that does it. How about you?

Comments? Suggestions? Healthy soy-free lactose-free recipes? E-mail the author at: lightningrose@hotmail.com.

Excuse our crunch... Community Vision will be back to normal format for next month s issue. (We hope!)

Queer Tidbit

Q: What lesbian-themed novel was banned in England in 1928 under the Obscene Libel Act?

A: The Well of Loneliness

Pioneer lesbian author Marguerite Radclyffe Hall (1880-1943) was raised with many privledges, including an education at King's College in London. With cropped hair and wearing men's clothes, she preferred to be known as "John." In 1907 Hall traveled to France, where she met Hazel Batten; they began a relationship that would last until Batten's death in 1915. That same year, Hall met Una Lady Troubridge, with whom she would spend the rest of her life.

Hall produced several volumes of poetry and four novels, the most famous of which is The Well of Loneliness, published in 1928. Because this novel spoke positively about lesbianism and encouraged society's acceptance of it, the British government immediately banned the book as obscene. Literary figures such as E.M. Forester, Virginia Woolf, and Rudyard Kipling wrote letters protesting the attempt by the government to ban books based on the objections of censors, but the ban on The Well of Loneliness was not lifted until 1943, after Hall's death earlier that same year. By then, the book had been translated into fourteen languages and was selling over 100,000 copies each year.

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queer's eye view by frank whitworth

My entire column this month is devoted to Jerome W. Page.

Jerome is about to retire from the Urban League after ten years in Colorado Springs and almost forty nationwide. His service has spanned from the days of hard civil rights battles to today's more indirect continuing efforts to ensure that all Americans are treated equally under the law; can live their lives free of discrimination and hate; and are given an opportunity to share in the wealth of this great nation.

Jerome returned from a stint with the Peace Corps to enter the Urban League in the heat of the sixties. A giant of the civil rights movement, Whitney Young, was his mentor and sponsor. It was through his efforts and the efforts of the Denver Urban League President and CEO that he received a scholarship to get his masters in social work with the proviso that he return to the Urban League for a minimum of two years. He has well repaid that debt.

Page stepped into the leadership of the Urban League in Seattle after the assassination of its President/CEO Edward Pratt, himself a giant of the movement. Jerome was one of the youngest CEO's ever to take over the position. He is credited with driving that affiliate to financial and programmatic success over the near decade he was there.

The presidency of the influential Washington D.C. Urban League was offered and Jerome served there for several years. He served on committees and with organizations that helped shape America in the late seventies and early eighties. He worked alongside the top leadership of the movement and in civil rights, gaining wide recognition.

Jerome answered the call to go to the Chattanooga Urban League as its President, where he dramatically impacted the nature and position of that struggling chapter. His style of bridgebuilding and coalition and a soft approach rather than a confrontational one is credited with moving this Urban League and its city far along the path to achieving the goals of the Chapter. He left it financially secure and as a cornerstone of the community to come to another struggling affiliate in his home state. He came to Colorado Springs.

Certainly there was the desire to move closer to home for he and his wife, JoKatherine. But there was also the challenge. Colorado Springs is among the smaller of Urban League's in the nation and it was severely challenged financially and in its program activities.

Jerome moved right in. Always a willing and productive member of boards and committees, he was soon in so many of these that one is challenged to understand how he could keep up with just that aspect of his position--not even taking into consideration the structural needs of the organization. He did, though, and he leaves a financially well and program rich Chapter, as he always has.

And, of course, he looked to build bridges and develop coalitions.

Colorado Springs of the early nineties was a highly contentious atmosphere to live in. Debates raged over the Human Relations Commission and the introduction of the anti-Gay Amendment 2.

Jerome faced the delicate and contentious questions headon.

In a democracy all must be free or none or free. It was the cornerstone of his beliefs. While certainly not the popular stand in Colorado Springs, he knew that he must do the right things--a guiding factor throughout his life.

He took the issue to the Urban League Board. One cannot say that it was an easy discussion. In fact, before it was over, several boardmembers departed. But the Urban League of the Pikes Peak Region was one of the first and most important organizations to come out against the discriminatory Amendment 2.

Jerome has continued in opposition to any proposals that would serve to limit any groups access to equal protection of the law. He was approached by Kevin Tebedo (Executive Director of Colorado for Family Values) once; spending several hours listening to Tebedo's justifications of why homosexuals did not deserve equal protection under the law.

Jerome did not waiver. When Colorado for Family Values attacked Mayor Makepeace and the "Zero tolerance for discrimination policy" of the city he stood strong against CFV. It may have been his early intervention to educate Black churches on the insidious nature of this attempt by CFV to alter the policy that kept the petitions out of the churches, resulting in CFV failing to get enough to qualify for the ballot.

Attacked time and again for his stand by the far right media and radio talk show hosts, Page continues to stay firm in his belief. To him it is not a pro-gay stance or an anti-gay stance. It is simply the right thing to do. He once told me that you cannot have experienced life in America as a Black person and not fear those who want to establish under law that some people, no matter who they are, are less equal than others. Been there--done that.

I want to thank Jerome for his integrity; for his support and, most of all, for the friendship he has shown to me. I cherish him both as a mentor and as one of my closest friends.

Jerome Page is truly a giant in the Urban League and civil rights movement in America. I am sure we have not heard the last of him. I surely hope not. He has too much to offer us for years to come.

Thank you Jerome.

· THE GAY AGENDA · JUNE 2001 · THE GAY AGENDA · JUNE

Friday, June 1st
UCPPE - Regular Court Show 10:50pm at the H&S

Saturday, June 2nd: Coffee Den
A gathering place for gay/bi/trans men 8pm-Midnight at the Pride Center

Monday, June 4, FUSION! POP
(Planning and Organizing Party), 1301 S. Eighth St., Suite #200 from 6:30-8:00 P.M. Pizza and drinks provided. Attending a POP is a great way to meet other new members, learn about FUSION!, and get involved. We're looking forward to some very special Pride Week events! Come help us plan the rest of our summer activities.

Wednesday, June 6th: Religion Series
Rev. Elder Nori Rost, Metropolitan Community Church, 7pm at the Pride Center

Wednesday, June 6th
Gay Male Fiction Book Club will host their special monthly movie night! Details on title and location are available from Paul W. at 634-3731.

Thursday, June 7th: Womyn's Pride Book Study
"Who Moved My Cheese?" Facilitated by Linda Rinehart -7:30pm at the Pride Center

Saturday, June 9th: Queers in Recovery (QIR)
Panel discussion and open forum for anyone in or contemplating recovery. "Gay, Sober, & Dating" 7pm at the Pride Center

Saturday, June 9th
UCPPE Regent Show - Dowager Empress 25 Lauren at the H&S

Saturday, June 9th:
FUSION! Bowling-Game Night resumes in June! Contact Angelo at 597-8351 (call before 9 PM please!) for details and to RSVP.

Sunday, June 10th: Book Swap
Bring the books you have finished reading and trade them in for new(used) books! 4-6pm at the Pride Center

Tuesday, June 12th
FUSION!Sip n' Sup at Spice of Life, 727 Manitou Avenue, Manitou Springs at 6:30 P.M. As seating is limited, please RSVP to our host Ed by 6/8 at 578-9092 or via e-mail at ediaz@s-cap.org . Our last few dinners were sell-outs, so make your reservation early!

Wednesday, June 13th: Religion Series
Father Joe Holloran, The Catholic Church, 7pm at the Pride Center

Thursday, June 14th: Book Swap
Bring the books you have finished reading and trade them in for new(used) books! 7-9pm at the Pride Center

Friday, June 15th: Stonewall Cinematique
See the films "Stonewall" and "After Stonewall" - 7pm at the Pride Center

Friday, June 15th
HIV Testing Workshop, at the Hide'n'Seek, Branding Iron Bar, 6:00-7:30 PM. This is an informational workshop to learn more about free HIV & STD testing as well as hepatitis screening, all of which will be offered at select gay community sites beginning in June. For more information call 578-9092 or e-mail ediaz@s-cap.org .

Saturday, June 16th: Stonewall Party
Tonight we're gonna party like it's 1969! 8pm - Midnight at The Warehouse, 25 West Cimarron. 60's "Revolution" attire urged!

Saturday, June 16th
Pikes Peak Sho-Ho's Show at the H&S 11pm - raising money for the Pride Parade Float

Monday, June 18th: NetCoRe Monthly Mixer
5:30 - 7:30pm at Poor Richards - on the patio 324 1/2 N. Tejon, $5 requested donation

Wednesday, June 20th: Religion Series
Rabbi Irvin Ehrlich, Reform Judaism, 7pm at the Pride Center

Wednesday, June 20th
Gay Male Fiction Book Club will meet at 7:00 P.M. to discuss Blue Heaven by Joe Keenan. For more information contact Paul W. at 634-3731.

Friday, June 22nd
Free HIV Testing at the Colorado Grille (Hide'n'Seek), 10:00 PM to midnight. Presented in collaboration with FUSION! and the health department. Orasure (no needles!) testing for HIV, as well as traditional HIV/STD testing will be available. For further info, contact S-CAP at 578-9092 or e-mail info@s-cap.org .

Friday, June 22nd
UCPPE - PR Show at the H&S 10:50pm

Sunday, June 24th
DENVER PRIDE

Monday, June 25th
Gay Day at Elitch's/Six Flags

Monday, June 25th: Lesbian Survivors Group
A group for women facing life-altering illnesses - 5:30pm at the Pride Center

Thursday, June 28th: Movie Night
Episodes 9&10 of "Queer as Folk" 8pm at the Pride Center, sodas and popcorn will be served.

Thursday, June 28
Bodysmarts presents "Leather Sex-Part 2", facilitated by Summit Masters, at the Pride Center, from 6:00-8:00 PM. Pizza and beverages provided. Our first leather workshop in February drew a record crowd was one of our most memorable events. Be sure to check this out, you won't be disappointed! This workshop is aimed at novices as well as more experienced leather aficionados. We'll also the emotional and spiritual aspects of leather as well as more practical information including safer sex practices. Contact Ed at 578-9092 or via e-mail at ediaz@s-cap.org .

Saturday, June 30
Potluck & Game Night on Wayne K.'s patio. Join us for a barbeque from 4:00 PM-on. Contact Wayne at 685-4773 for details and location.

Saturday, June 30th
UCPPE - Court show at the H&S 10:50pm

June 2001

COMMUNITY VISION

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